



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

# Bangor International

September 2019



**No. 1 in the UK for Clubs and Societies**

WhatUni 2019



**No.1 in UK  
for most  
affordable place  
to study**

**TotallyMoney**

Bangor University has been ranked **No.1 as the most affordable place to study in the UK**, by Totally Money 2019.

Bangor came top of the class for affordability against a study which included 50 other UK universities that were tested based on eight cost of living factors. The eight factors included weekly rent and the cost of a meal.

[www.totallymoney.com/  
content/best-university/](http://www.totallymoney.com/content/best-university/)

## A First Class Sustainable University

Bangor University has been awarded a **'First Class Honours'** for its sustainability credentials by *People & Planet*, the largest student network in the UK campaigning for social and environmental justice. Only 29 of the 154 universities in the UK are placed in this category.

This comes after Bangor University was ranked eighth in the world for its commitment to sustainability according to an international league table of environmentally friendly institutions, earlier this year.

Bangor University is one of four UK universities appearing in the Top 10 of the UI (Universitas Indonesia) Green Metric, a league table of the world's greenest universities.

This latest table sees the University rising nine places in the table, and achieving its highest ever score, and is assessed on a wide range of environmental, social and financial sustainability criteria.



Dr Einir Young, Bangor's Director of Sustainability said:

*"This is further evidence that we are making progress and underlines our commitment to sustainability as a university. We are listening to our students. In this year's survey 92% of them wanted us to incorporate Sustainability into what we do and to promote it. We will continue to work together to ensure that the principles and practical application of sustainability principles informs our teaching, learning, research, innovation and public engagement contributing to the Welsh Wellbeing Goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals."*

## In this issue of our newsletter...

- University Awards
- Research News
- Take a look at our International Student Newsletter here:

[www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/news/international-student-newsletter-welcome-week-2019-41688](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/news/international-student-newsletter-welcome-week-2019-41688)

# Bangor University hosted a successful alumni event at the 4th World Congress on Agroforestry in Montpellier, France



*Bangor University staff pictured with some of the Alumni attendees*

Recently with support from the International Education Centre, staff from the **School of Natural Sciences** hosted an event at the **4th World Congress on Agroforestry** in Montpellier, France. Bangor University has a large number of international students and makes efforts to keep in touch with alumni wherever they are in the world. At the hotel Oceania in Montpellier, staff, alumni, current and prospective students shared stories, networked and learned about recent developments at Bangor University as well as far beyond.

In attendance were a number of Bangor University alumni from distant corners of the world including Hernàn Andrade who received his PhD in 2007 and now works for the University of Tolima in Colombia; Carlos Cerdan, who received his PhD jointly with CATIE in Costa Rica, now employed by the University of Veracruz in Mexico; Géraldine Deroirre (Joint PhD with SLU Sweden, 2016) who is now based with CIRAD in French Guyana; Emilie Smith (MSc in 2010 and PhD in 2018) working with ICRAF in Nairobi; Liz Llewellyn (DL MSc Forestry in 2017) from South Africa; Donald Zulu (MSc Agroforestry 2008) from Zambia who is now pursuing a PhD with Reading University. Current students included Mary Crossland, who is a PhD student with Bangor University and works closely with ICRAF; Bid Webb (PhD student); as well as our Indian Tropical Forestry student on the distant learning programme Yogesh Sawant.

It was also a meeting of our international (former) staff, James Brockington based in French Guyana, our honorary lecturer Dr Rob Brook currently based in Costa Rica, Dr Fergus Sinclair who is based with ICRAF in Nairobi, Kenya.

# Creation of a new Smart Efficient Energy Centre with £4.6 million of EU funding



A new data science hub for green energy is to be created at Bangor University, backed by £4.6million EU funds.

The new Smart Efficient Energy Centre (SEEC) will develop joint research between Welsh and international organisations and businesses. It will investigate the options for using big data science to improve the efficiency of low carbon energy systems including nuclear, marine and offshore wind energy.

The centre is forecast to become an international hub of excellence in North Wales, generating a **further £9million of research income** over the next four years, and encouraging collaboration on new ideas and innovative solutions to global energy efficiency issues.

Research will be based around the development of new cyber infrastructure and digital systems to increase the volume and speed of data analysis, and generate new scientific insights and innovation

in low carbon energy sectors.

Counsel General and Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles, who oversees EU funding in Wales, said: *“Developing creative solutions to renewable energy efficiency issues is vital as we tackle the global challenges of climate change.*

*“The Smart Efficient Energy Centre will be a dedicated facility, harnessing and developing international expertise in data science and renewable energy, and putting Wales at the top of the global climate change research table.*

*“By promoting collaboration and encouraging a joined up approach to global issues, EU funding continues to be vital in modernising our economy, increasing productivity, developing opportunities and driving real progress in R&D, science, infrastructure and skills.”*

Prof John Healey, Director of Research at the **College of**

**Environmental Sciences & Engineering** said: *“SEEC is a flagship strategic development for the newly formed **College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering** at Bangor University.*

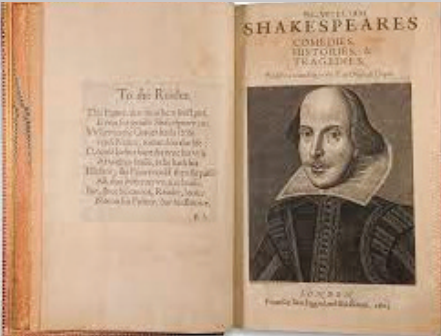
*“It will lead innovation on how advanced engineering, computer science and modelling can be applied most effectively to tackle grand challenges of increasing the sustainability of energy supply and utilisation, while minimising negative environmental impacts, in particular net carbon emissions.”*

Dr Simon Neill, Director of SEEC, said: *“SEEC will be instrumental in positioning Wales at the forefront of the current technological revolution in low carbon energy research, which is one of the highest priorities to address within the current climate emergency.”*

In the last decade, EU-funded projects in Wales have created more than 48,000 jobs and 13,000 new businesses, while helping 86,000 people back into work.

## Research News

### Reading Shakespeare has dramatic effect on human brain



Research on how reading Shakespeare has a dramatic effect on the human brain has attracted worldwide attention.

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist.

Researchers have found that Shakespearean language excites positive brain activity and experts believed that this heightened brain activity may be one of the reasons why Shakespeare's plays have such a dramatic impact on their readers.

Dr Guillaume Thierry, **Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience** in the **School of Psychology** at Bangor University along with other researchers monitored 20 participants using an electroencephalogram (EEG) as they read selected lines from Shakespeare's plays.

Researchers found that this technique allowed the brain to understand what a word means before it understands the function of the word within a sentence. This process caused a sudden peak in brain activity and forces the brain to work backward in order to fully understand what Shakespeare is trying to say.

## Welsh Government First Minister visit to Bangor University



**L-R:** Aboard the *Prince Madog*, Bangor University's Research Vessel are Prof Graham Upton, Interim Vice-Chancellor; Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister; Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Energy and Rural Affairs and Prof David Thomas, Head of the University's School of Ocean Sciences

The Welsh Government and Bangor University are joining forces to help ensure that the seas around Wales are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse. To mark the new collaboration, the Welsh Government First Minister Mark Drakeford visited Bangor University recently.

Bangor University's research vessel, the *Prince Madog* will be used to gather data from the seas around Wales which will assist the Welsh Government to fulfil its marine and fisheries evidence requirements.

Gathering evidence from the seas around Wales is essential in order to maintain good standards in our marine environment. This involves developing appropriate targets, indicators, assessment criteria and monitoring programmes to acquire relevant data.

The new collaboration will help secure the future of the *Prince Madog* research vessel.

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs said: *"We want our Welsh seas to be clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse. I am pleased we have been able to collaborate with Bangor University as this will help us meet our marine evidence and data gathering requirements."*

Professor David Thomas, Head of Bangor University's School of Ocean Sciences said: *"The Prince Madog is a wonderful platform to deliver the type of innovative survey work the Welsh Government fisheries team need and we are proud to be working together with them over the next 2 years."*

# Bangor University signs new agreements with Jamaican and Botswana Banking and Financial Institutes

Bangor University and the **Bangor Business School** are proud to announce they have signed new partnership agreements with the **Jamaica Institute of Financial Services** and **The Botswana Institute of Banking and Finance** during The World Conference of Banking Institutes 2019 – Guildhall, London.

Both agreements will enable more bankers, financial regulators and financial executives to work with Bangor University to develop their ethical and professional practice and attain the coveted Chartered Banker Status. Professor John Ashton the programme director for the **Chartered Banker MBA** commented: *“We are absolutely delighted to extend and deepen our relationships with Botswana and Jamaica to enhance financial and banking training and executive development in these nations.”* The relationships with Jamaica and Botswana are both long standing and have existed for 8 and 3 years respectively.



L-R: Tanya Keith CBMBA Business Development Director, Prof John Ashton Programme Director, Darlene Jones, Executive Director The Jamaica Institute of Financial Services, Simon Thompson Chartered Banker Institute, Rickert Allen, National Commercial Bank Jamaica

## Bangor University Professor one of only six Fellows elected into the European Health Psychology Society

Professor Valerie Morrison, Professor in Psychology at Bangor University's **School of Psychology** was one of only six British Psychological Society (BPS) chartered members elected as Fellows of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) at its conference in Croatia earlier this month.

The EHPS awards fellowships to its members who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement or dissemination of health psychology knowledge and practice.

*Congratulations Professor Valerie Morrison!*



*Professor Valerie Morrison*

# New Undergraduate Courses for 2020

Below are all of the **NEW** undergraduate courses launched for September 2020:

- Adventure Sport Science BSc
- Business BA
- Business Analytics with Financial Technology BSc \*
- Banking with Financial Technology BSc \*
- Biomedical Science with Foundation Year\* BSc
- Computer Science with Games Design BSc
- Data Science and Machine Learning BSc
- Data Science and Visualisation BSc
- Law with Politics LLB
- Medical Biochemistry BSc
- Medical Biochemistry with Foundation Year BSc
- Music with Games Design BA
- Music with Journalism BA
- Music with Theatre and Performance BA
- Psychology with Forensic Psychology BSc
- Politics and Economics BA
- Politics BA
- Sport Science and Business Management BSc
- Sport Science and Marketing BSc
- Sports Science (Outdoor Activities) BSc
- Wildlife Conservation BSc
- Zoology with Primatology BSc
- Zoology with Ornithology BSc

**\*Subject to validation**

# New Postgraduate Courses for 2020

Below are all of the **NEW** Masters courses launched for September 2020:

- Advanced Computer Science MSc
- Advanced Data Science MSc
- Agroforestry and Food Security MSc
- Agroforestry and Food Security MSc by Distance Learning
- Applied Innovation Design MSc
- Applied Marketing Science MSc
- Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Systems (AMTS) MSc \*
- Biomedical Science MSc
- Computing MSc
- Computing for Data Science MSc
- Data Science MSc \*
- Documentary MA
- Film Studies MA
- Mental Health Practice MSc
- Medical Education Practice MA
- Music and Management MA
- Performance Psychology MSc
- Rise of the Machines MSc
- Sport History, Culture and the Media MA

**\*Subject to validation**

# Meet us in your country

We shall be visiting the following  
countries between September - November 2019

India	- Sept & Oct	Thailand	- October
Bangladesh	- October	Slovenia	- November
Bulgaria	- October	Croatia	- November
Greece	- October	China	- November
Saudi Arabia	- October	USA	- November

If your country is not listed above then you may contact the relevant **Country Manager** listed below,  
OR visit our country visits page for more information: [www.bangor.ac.uk/international/visits](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/visits)

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officers to visit your school or if you need any advice.



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